



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 JULY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam



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2. North Vietnam

Hanoi may be trying to lower somewhat the heat generated by the recent talk of possible trials and executions of captured US airmen in North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese press representative in Laos, just back from a stay in Hanoi, told a Western journalist today that he is sure no death sentences will be carried out. He added, however, that he thinks there will be "war crimes" trials and that the airmen will be given long prison terms.

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The North Vietnamese chargé in Algiers publicly suggested today that Hanoi is in no hurry to commit itself to trials for the airmen.

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3. North Vietnam

[redacted] in Hanoi [redacted]
[redacted] evacuation of nonessential personnel from the city, which was announced by the regime shortly after the first US air strikes in the capital region, is now well under way. [redacted]

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[redacted]
areas of the city near Red River bridges and dikes are receiving priority in the evacuation.

4. Rhodesia

London is said to be preparing a new set of specific constitutional proposals that would grant Rhodesia independence on terms well short of African majority rule. The proposals would, however, contain guarantees for African rights and progress toward majority rule.

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[redacted]
We doubt such a gambit would have much effect in Rhodesia. The ruling party does not want a settlement that would remove their control over the political advancement of Africans, and Smith still has the support of the overwhelming majority of the white community.

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5. Israel-Syria

Last week's Israeli air strike at Syrian targets does not seem to have gotten the message across to Syrian-supported Arab terrorists.

Israel now claims some of these types slipped into an Israeli village yesterday and planted some explosives. Today, Syrian and Israeli patrols exchanged fire along the border.

If such incidents should result in Israeli deaths--Tel Aviv's usual rule of thumb in deciding whether to retaliate--the Israelis may see fit to administer another warning to Syria.

6. Burundi

The political scene is more than usually murky since Prince Charles "deposed" his father some ten days ago. Actually, he simply filled a vacuum, because his father--who has been in Europe for the last nine months--is quite content to stay there as long as the remittances keep coming. Charles will probably soon be proclaimed king.

The danger is the unclear political orientation of his government. Many of its leaders are said to have an almost pathological fear of the US, and there are rumors and reports of pro-Communist moves. The Chinese Communists, who were unceremoniously ejected in January of 1965, will probably jump at any opportunity to get invited back.

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7. France

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8. Cambodia

Sihanouk is preparing for some more talks with the Viet Cong.

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Sihanouk has recently been increasingly critical of the Communist camp, and has held out the prospect of improved relations with Bangkok and Saigon. However, he probably still wants to obtain formal Viet Cong recognition of what he takes to be his border with Laos and South Vietnam as well as a pledge of support for Cambodia's "neutrality."

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9. India



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